AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): Interface unit comprising:

- a first component for establishing a connection to a radio network controller of a radio network sub-system by means of a first communication protocol~~,~~;

- a second component for establishing a connection to ~~at least one~~ a plurality of access points of a wireless local area network by means of a second communication protocol, wherein each of the plurality of access points covers a respective physical cell, and a plurality of physical cells including the respective physical cell constitutes a logical cell~~,~~;

- a third component for converting the second communication protocol to the first communication protocol and for converting the first communication protocol to the second communication protocol~~,~~; and

- a fourth component for providing data indicative of a load situation of ~~at least one access point~~ the logical cell to the radio network controller, wherein the load situation indicates a total load of the plurality of access points within the logical cell as a fraction of an integrated capacity of the plurality of physical cells within the logical cell.

2. (currently amended): The interface unit of claim 1, the ~~first~~ connection to the radio network controller being a long distance connection~~, such as~~ comprising at least one of an ATM-type connection ~~or~~ and an IP-type connection.

3. (currently amended): The interface unit of claim 1, the ~~second~~ connection to the at least one access point being a short distance connection~~, such as~~ comprising an Ethernet-type connection.

4. (currently amended): The interface unit of claim 1 further comprising a fifth component for balancing the total load of ~~a number~~ the plurality of the access points ~~being comprised within a logical cell of the wireless local area network~~.

5. (currently amended): The interface unit of claim 1 further comprising a sixth component for hand over control of wireless terminals between the plurality of access points ~~being comprised within a logical cell of the wireless local area network~~.

6. (currently amended): A telecommunication system comprising:

- a radio network controller for coupling to a core network and for coupling to one or more Node Bs,
- a wireless local area network having a ~~number~~ plurality of access points,

- an interface unit for coupling the plurality of access points to the radio network controller, the interface unit having a component for providing data indicative of a load situation of ~~the access points~~ a logical cell to the radio network controller,

wherein each of the plurality of access points covers a respective physical cell, and a plurality of physical cells including the respective physical cell constitutes the logical cell, and

wherein the load situation indicates a total load of the plurality of access points within the logical cell as a fraction of an integrated capacity of the plurality of physical cells within the logical cell.

7. (currently amended): The telecommunication system of claim 6 further comprising a component for balancing the total load of the plurality of access points ~~being comprised within a logical cell of the wireless local area network~~, the component for load balancing being comprised in the interface unit.

8. (currently amended): The telecommunication system of claim 6 further comprising a component for hand over control of wireless terminals between the plurality of access points ~~being comprised within a logical cell of the wireless local area network~~.

9. (original): The telecommunication system of claim 8, the component for hand over control being comprised in the radio network controller.

10. (currently amended): A telecommunication method comprising:

- providing of a 3GPP/UMTS-type system having one or more radio network controllers,

- providing of a wireless local area network-type system having a ~~number~~ plurality of access points,

- coupling of the wireless local area network-type system to the 3GPP UMTS-type system by interconnecting the at least one radio network controller and the plurality of access points by means of the interface unit as claimed in claim 1.